

Letter from the Concord Coalition in support of Blue Dog Coalition budget enforcement legislation:

The Honorable Baron Hill
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hill,

The Concord Coalition strongly supports the Blue Dog Coalition's call for a tough new budget enforcement law. We are particularly pleased that the budget enforcement plan you and your fellow Blue Dogs have put forward would restore statutory caps for discretionary spending and the original pay-as-you-go (paygo) requirement for entitlement expansions and tax cuts.

The political consensus that once existed in support of the balanced budget goal has broken down. Rather than setting priorities and making hard choices, Congress and the President have simultaneously increased spending and cut taxes - with little or no regard for how it all adds up. It is worth noting in this regard, that the huge \$5.6 trillion surplus projected just three years ago did not simply disappear. According to CBO estimates, legislation and its associated interest costs consumed \$5.1 trillion of that projected surplus. Economic and technical factors reduced it by another \$3.4 trillion - meaning that over the same timeframe, 2002 to 2011, we now have a projected deficit of \$2.9 trillion instead of a projected \$5.6 trillion surplus. **This is a particularly ominous development when looming just beyond the current 5-year budget window are the huge retirement and health care costs of the coming senior boom. The time to get the budget under control is now.**

In Concord's view the choice is clear. We believe that renewing caps and paygo is the best step that can be taken immediately to stop digging the fiscal hole deeper. The Concord Coalition commends you and your fellow Blue Dogs for proposing this very credible plan to restore fiscal discipline to the budget process.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bixby
Executive Director
The Concord Coalition